



Fw: Creston Water Issues

Fran Zohns to: Frank Mecham, Bruce Gibson, Adam Hill, Paul
Teixeira, Debbie Arnold, Vicki Shelby, Cherie
Aispuro, Hannah Miller, Debbie Geaslen,
Cc: cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder

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FYI

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From: terry Rapp <wtrafr@yahoo.com>
To: Supervisors <BoardOfSups@co.slo.us>, Water <fzohns@co.slo.ca.us>, Carol Todd
<crowland@wildblue.net>
Date: 05/06/2013 12:47 PM
Subject: Creston Water Issues

San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors,

I have lived in the Creston Valley on 65 acres since 1986. Even during our 7 year drought cycles the water supply remained dependable. My property is now surrounded in all 4 directions by vineyards and ever since the vineyards were planted, the local water table has been dropping at an alarming rate.

Trying to do my part over the past 15 years, I quit watering lawns, cut down trees that had high water demands, and stopped irrigating pastures. For what? The vineyards are out there pumping huge quantities of water every day and the Rolling A horse properties are irrigating and watering pastures with above ground sprinklers during the heat of the day winter and summer.

When we tried to talk to County Government about our concerns years ago we were told that owners of water rights could utilize their water in any way and quantity that they chose. Now, we are told that County Government does have some say concerning water resources?

I am a senior living on a fixed income and my residence and acreage are my major assets. If I don't have water in the future, my property values will be trashed. Will the county recalculate property taxes for those of us who wind up with no water? My property certainly won't be worth much. Will the county wave the \$1600 permit fee for drilling a new well (many can't afford the expense of drilling a new well) for those long-term residential constituents, who through no fault of their own, find themselves in this current situation?

The County allowed these problems to develop and now seeks ways to close the barn door after the horses have already left the barn. The absentee vineyard owners will be able to afford to drill deeper and deeper wells until they no longer feel such a practice is cost effective and they will just walk away. We residential members of the Creston community will be left with no water, no property values, and nowhere to go. The once attractive money brought into the County coffers by the grape industry will dry up and residential property taxes will be non-existent because there won't be any residents left. I naively thought the role of County government was to protect its' citizens and not to sacrifice them to the needs of corporations.

We residents can't afford to fight these large growers for our right to survive. We don't have the money to compete with them. The County Board of Supervisors is our major hope. Please care what happens to us.

Sincerely,
Anna Rapp
Creston, California